

Hoover Assails U.S. For Katanga Policy

Former President Hoover strongly criticized yesterday United States support of the United Nations military operations in Katanga. He said that the people of that secessionist Congo province were seeking freedom from Communist domination.

The 87-year-old former President issued a statement from his Waldorf-Astoria Hotel headquarters in what his office said was a response to inquiries about his position on remarks made by Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, at a news conference Tuesday.

Senator Dodd accused the United Nations of "naked aggression." He called for a Senate investigation and a reorganization of the United

Nations to prevent any similar future military thrust.

He said that Congress should consider whether to appropriate further money for such operations, adding: "I don't think the United Nations should start wars."

Mr. Hoover's statement, follows:

"I wish to state that I support the report and recommendation of Senator Thomas J. Dodd in respect to Katanga. His report and his recommendation have especial value as they are based upon a personal on-the-spot investigation of an eminent American.

"I welcome President Kennedy's efforts to secure a ceasefire and a peaceful solution, and all the American people will hope for his success.

"But despite the President's efforts, hostilities against Katanga continue. It is a sad day for the American people when American resources are being applied to the killing of people who are seeking for independence and self-government, free from Communist domination."

No Further Comment

Efforts to obtain further comment from Mr. Hoover, including a question as to the specific recommendations by Senator Dodd that he meant to support, were unavailing.

The nation's other former Republican President, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, was on his way from Gettysburg, Pa., to his winter home in Palm Springs, Calif., yesterday, and was unavailable. General Eisenhower had been on the Congo after he had conferred with his

former Secretary of State, Christian A. Smith.

"It is gratifying," Eisenhower then said, "that the President (Mr. Kennedy) has determined to help in developing peaceful conditions under which Prime Minister (Cyrille) Adoula of the Congo and President (Molise) Tshombe of Katanga can themselves resolve their difficulties through negotiation. The hope is that then there may emerge a federated peaceful and more prosperous Congo nation."

Efforts to reach former President Harry S. Truman in Independence, Mo., yesterday were unsuccessful.

Declined Invitation

Former President Hoover was among those invited to sponsor the new American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters, which was announced Dec. 14. He declined that invitation with a letter in which he wrote:

"I have always made it a rule not to join in general public statements but when the occasion requires to express my individual views, I am sorry."

Marvin Liebman, a member of the executive committee of the pro-Katanga group, said yesterday that it had raised about \$20,000. He said that the advertisement in The New York Times announcing the formation of the committee had brought 1,100 letters. Of these, 900 contained contributions, 200 others offered help and 100 were hostile, he said.

The committee's first move has been to offer relief to Katanga through the Benedictine Fathers' Roman Catholic mission and the Seventh Day Adventists' medical corps mission, both in Elisabethville, Mr. Liebman said.

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